

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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R 171352Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4856
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECIN, PFOR, KE, TZ
SUBJECT: CONTROVERSY CONTINUES IN EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

REF: NAIROBI 13943, DAR ES SALAAM 4548

1. NEW ROUND OF KENYA-TANZANIA POLEMICS CONTINUED WITH
GOK DECEMBER 15 STATEMENT DENYING TANZANIAN CHARGES EXPRESSED
IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED "DAILY NEWS" OF DECEMBER
10 THAT KENYA IS ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE THE EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY FOR HER OWN MATERIAL BENEFIT. GOK STATEMENT
EXPANDED ON CHARGES OF TANZANIA'S INFRINGEMENT OF THE
SPIRIT AND LETTER OF THE COMMUNITY CHARTER -- I.E., ITS
TAXATION OF KENYAN PRODUCTS IN 1969, ITS BILATERAL TRADE
AGREEMENT WITH THE PRC, ITS BLOCKAGE OF THE TRANSFER OF
FUNDS OWED THE EAST AFRICAN RAILWAYS CORPORATION.

2. WHILE THE CURRENT EXCHANGE BETWEEN KENYA AND TANZANIA
OVER THE COMMUNITY OSTENSIBLY REVOLVES AROUND ECONOMIC
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ISSUES, IT LAYS BARE SOME FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN TWO SOCIETIES. TANGOV, SENSITIVE TO ITS
SEVERE ECONOMIC TROUBLES BLAMED BY MANY ON ITS
SOCIALIST SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, HAS CHOSEN TO ATTACK
"CAPITALIST" KENYA FOR THE WOES OF THE EAC. THE
KENYAN GOVERNMENT HAS RESPONDED IN KIND WITH ATTACKS

ON TANZANIA'S "POLITICAL COMMISSARS," ASKING FOR WHOM
TANZANIA IS WORKING AND WARNING THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT
NOT TO TRY TO SPEAK FOR THE KENYAN MASSES. ONCE
THE FUTURE OF THE EAC IS RESOLVED, THE TACTICAL NEED
FOR SUCH POLEMICS WILL FADE, AND THE TWO COUNTRIES
MAY FIND ITS EASIER TO COEXIST.

DECON 1/1/78.

MARSHALL

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